

ticularly in Asia Minor, where Russia wants to expand too, we must have no differences."

I sensed that Russia's expansion was something feared and immediately made use of this. I explained that Russia was behind Turkey's resistance, and that Russia was evidently making *tache d'huile* [spreading out] in Asia Minor—until it would suddenly be at the shores of the Mediterranean. Only then would Zionism be lost. Only when Palestine belonged to the Russians would we have no more chance of obtaining it. At this point he said: "What you are telling me now interests me very much."

I also mentioned that I had recently offered the Sultan £700,000 on favorable terms. He had not accepted the offer, evidently prevented by Russia. But I was determined to spoil his loans for him if he absolutely refused to give me a hearing. However, if he sent for me, I could make a great deal of money available to him.

We had talked for an hour and a quarter. I got up. He said he hoped to see me at his dinner table soon. *Et nous nous quittâmes dans les meilleurs termes* [and we parted on the best of terms].

January 4, Vienna

This has been a curious day today. But this evening I still don't know, and probably won't know for a long time, whether it has been a day *sans conséquences* [of no consequence] or one to be marked in red later.

The day before yesterday I had received a card from Secretary von Bleyleben, saying that the Prime Minister requested me to call on him today. I took this as just an answer to my New Year's visiting card which I had left on the first, and gave the invitation no further thought, because my previous visits to Koerber had never amounted to more than *dicerie* [chats]. I was more concerned, as an echo of the conversation with Eulenburg, with the following notice in yesterday's evening edition of the *N. Fr. Pr.*:

In an article in the *United Services Magazine* there is a peculiar proposal, one hardly to be taken seriously, regarding an Anglo-

German exchange of territory. England is to exchange the island of Cyprus, which has been under English administration since the June agreement of 1878, for German East Africa, in order to safeguard for England the strategic and commercial value of the Cape-Cairo railroad which would otherwise in part run through foreign territory and be dependent on a foreign power. According to the article, Cyprus has always been of doubtful value to England, and on the other hand, thinly populated, tropical East Africa is not particularly valuable to Germany, while Cyprus would be an excellent acquisition for her, as a base for her aspirations in the Near East as well as a station on the long road to her possessions in the Far East. If Germany ever got into the position of having to defend her rights in Asia Minor by force of arms, Cyprus would constitute a very valuable base of operations, and England would in no way have anything to fear from Germany's taking over this island. In Germany, to be sure, there is a different opinion regarding the value of German East Africa, despite the abandonment of Zanzibar and Witu; therefore Berlin will probably attach only academic importance to the proposals of the above-mentioned English periodical.

The comment that the proposal was not to be taken seriously made me not entirely incredulous, for the judgments of the *N. Fr. Pr.*—after all, I know its judges—are not always the wisest.

In the first excitement I wanted to write to Eulenburg and make proposals in case it was true. Germany would then have to welcome a Jewish settlement on Cyprus with delight.

We would rally on Cyprus and one day go over to Eretz Israel and take it by force, as it was taken from us long ago.

But I slept on this all-too-lurid idea, and the night brought me the decision that at this moment the wisest thing was to say nothing. Should Germany get Cyprus, I shall afterwards still have the opportunity to attempt the matter via Eulenburg and the Grand Duke. But if it stays with England, which is apparently tired of ownership, the chances are even better, because I shall be able to discuss it with Salisbury if my *bons offices* [good offices] in the